



NLG NEWSLETTER

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A BASH TO REMEMBER: THE PHILADELPHIA STORY

FROM THE EDITOR'S LAIR... DAVID T. ALEXANDER

The 2000 NLG Bash reflected the amazing energy of the Philadelphia ANA. The bustle and blast of the main convention filled our room in the Pennsylvania Convention Center as our indefatigable Treasurer Kay Lenker dispensed Bash tickets to the eager throng. The NLG space was ample, the view unimpaired by pillars or other barriers, the sound system fully up for the game.

Benefactor Mike Fuljenz once again underwrote the roast beef and goodies, adding this generosity to his donation of the cost of the award plaques that would be presented later in the program. **Mike, NLG and the enthusiastic Bash attendees are massively in your debt!**

Taking the stage as Bash emcee for the 12th time was our Hoosier humorist (though now domiciled in Dublin, Ohio), Wendell Wolka. Wendell first appeared at the 1989 Pittsburgh Bash, bringing a wealth of song, skits, satire and vitality to the task. Fortifying him for the task was a gaggle of exuberant (read "noisy") Shills, a Wendellian fixture for more than a decade.

"Slabs on the Run" was the latest musical offering of New Jersey's Greg and Lisa Heim, detailing the escape of two encapsulated coins from PCGS slabs and their subsequent adventures. A recorded score originally entitled "Man on the Run" was accompanied by Greg's playing on some exotic kind of African flute. The couple's satirical lyrics were equal to the occasion.

Additional musical entertainment was provided by NLG's treasured troubadour, Chris Connell, now of Long Island, N.Y. Chris (that's "Reverend Chris" in his Manhasset vicarage) offered two new songs especially written for the Bash, notably "I want to be... in the NLG," which attracted substantial applause along with a reprise of his longtime favorite, "Coin Show Junkie."

Prefacing their presentation with the observation that providing help for numismatic journalists was an original NLG *raison d'être*, Dave and Pat Alexander delivered a rapid-fire series of elisions involving the name Sacagawea. Such elisions (a word from your English Lit 101 course,

'W' WINS TOP HONORS IN NLG, TOO

(EDITOR'S NOTE: George W. Bush wasn't the only "Dubya" to emerge victorious in 2000. NLG's top honor, the Clemy, went to a man who might be called "Double Dubya"—longtime Bash Emcee Wendell Wolka. The selection was made by the 1999 Clemy winner, Tom DeLorey, from a list of nominees submitted by members of the Board of Directors. The presentation took place at the Bash in Philadelphia, crowning an evening during which "WW" co-starred in a memorable skit with Mint Director Jay Johnson. Following is the text of DeLorey's presentation speech.)

Before we present this year's Clemy Award, I would like to read a few words which my good friend David T. Alexander has written for the *NLG Newsletter*. I do not believe that they have yet been published in their entirety.

"The Clemy is the highest recognition of the NLG. Since it was first presented to its namesake, the late Clement F. Bailey, the award has matured in the esteem of NLG members and the larger numismatic community ...

Cont. on page 2

Cont. on page 5

NLG Bash cont. from page 1

remember? Next to parse and cosine) would ease the difficult task of headline writers. Thus, the story of a collector choking on the new golden dollar could be headed AAACKAGAWEA.

Design complaints became FLACKAGAWEA; discolored or badly toned pieces, BLACKAGAWEA; then there was the newly discovered mule of the dollar obverse with the New Jersey quarter reverse, HACKENSACKAGAWEA. The truck with its little chrome-plated bulldog hood ornament replaced by the new dollar, MACKAGAWEA; the con artist swindling the little old lady out of her hoarded dollars, KNACKAGAWEA; dollars in a revolving display case, RACKAGAWEA; dollars in a coin-operated lunchroom, SNACKAGAWEA; coins in the showroom of a noted New York dealership on West 57th Street, STACKAGAWEA.

The hairy, horned beast in the zoo that wore a necklace of golden dollars, YAKAGAWEA. Revisionist historians, the Alexanders noted with tongue in cheek, now report that a youthful Zachary Taylor tagged along on the Lewis and Clark expedition. Falling in love with the Shoshone guide, he had a child by her not recorded in history books – ZACKAGAWEA.

NLG Executive Director Ed Reiter offered another of his carefully composed musical epics (see "Achieving Parody" elsewhere in this issue). His numismatic rendition of "Indian Love Call" was another high point in the evening's entertainment.

ANA personalities onstage for the "Great Karnak" skit were ANA past vice president Scott A.

Travers and past president Anthony Swiatek. Karnaks of the past included the late Walter Breen and Wolfeboro, N.H. sage Q. David Bowers. The seer holds envelopes to his forehead, giving the answers without seeing the questions. Answer: "Don Kagin, Alan Stahl and Richard Doty." Question: "Name three coin doctors." All three of these noted numismatists are, of course, PhD's!

The outstanding corniness of this year's Karnak led to a mock strike or walkout by the shills. After they exited to the backstage area, Tom DeLorey and Pat Alexander circulated at the forward tables, handing out brass Austrian one-schilling coins, announcing: "Here are replacement schillings!"

Swiatek also starred in a skit based on the hit TV show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," opposite Ed Reiter as "Egregious Philbin." Swiatek navigated through a succession of questions, aiming for the grand prize, a trip to Iola, Wisconsin, home of Krause Publications. The final question was "Who is portrayed on the Lincoln cent, Abraham Lincoln or [new ANA Vice President] John Wilson? Swiatek threw a lifeline to Convention General Chairman Bill Horton, who assured him the portrait was that of John Wilson. Bye, bye, Iola!

The undoubted highlight of the evening's entertainment was a skit featuring Wendell Wolka as host of a numismatic form of "Home Shopping Network," opposite recently appointed United States Mint Director Jay W. Johnson. While NLG has been no stranger to former Mint directors, notably Eva Adams, Mary Brooks and Donna Pope, none

had the breathtaking stage presence of Jay Johnson.

Many Bash-goers may have recalled that Director Johnson had served as a congressman from Wisconsin, but few knew that he had been a leading Midwest television personality. They were soon made aware of this, as Director Johnson took the stage with masterful ease, literally "stealing the show" from the experienced Emcee Wolka, whom he greeted at one point as "Buffalo-Breath Bob."

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More amazing was the subject of the skit, a masterful take-off on the proliferation of proof and uncirculated versions and sets of the new 50-State Quarters and their suggested territorial sisters. Added to this expansion has been the quantum growth of holders and albums appearing everywhere to house the wildly popular new coins.

Taking ruthless hold of the spirit of the satire, Director Johnson began describing ever more outrageous spoof products. "Have you seen our new U.S. Mint CD? It's shaped like a coin!" He then sang the first lines of several coin-related songs, including "Pennies From Heaven," "I Found a Million-Dollar Baby in a Five- and 10-Cent Store" and several others.

The numbers of quarters described in the skit were drama-

tized when several of Emcee Wolka's shills struggled onto the stage with an immense "album" to hold more than 1,250 quarters, created by taping together dozens of ANA quarter boards.

The skit concluded with a standing ovation for Director Johnson's stellar performance, generally agreed to be one of the most outstanding in the history of the NLG Bash.

Presentation of the annual NLG Awards followed. A full listing of the book, newspaper, magazine, portfolio, auction catalog, club, audio, video, Web-site and TV recognitions appears elsewhere in this issue.

The editor bestows a single award, "Best Contribution to the NLG Newsletter." This year's award went to Neil Sharer for his

outstandingly punny article on the "Ribbet Award," which he received at the 1999 Bash from prior recipient Claude Murphy. First awarded at the 1996 Denver Bash, the Ribbet is a Chinese stone sculpture showing a frog leaving the water with an ancient square-holed cash coin in its mouth.

Numismatic authenticator J.P. Martin donated the Ribbet sculpture. NLG gives this award to a hobby leader who has achieved prominence in the numismatic world without losing approachability, sense of humor and essential modesty. Ribbet recipients have been:

1996, Anthony Swiatek;
1997, Wendell L. Wolka;
1998, Claude Murphy;
1999, Neil Shafer.

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We thank the members of NLG whose articles have enriched COINage magazine since 1964.

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What An ANA!

By David T. Alexander

The Philadelphia 2000 American Numismatic Association convention unquestionably made history and is now history itself. All observers agree that this event, which officially registered more than 22,000 show-goers, was the greatest success since the epic 1976 New York event, which now seems a lifetime ago.

New York '76 was your editor's first NLG occasion. My involvement included speaking on a morning NLG Symposium panel, then attending what was then billed as the "NLG Soiree," the term "Bash" not yet having taken on its magical force. The cost of New York's canapes and liquid refreshments was catastrophic,

and "Big Apple" expenses nearly bankrupted NLG. We didn't have a Mike Fuljenz on hand at that time to underwrite the Lucullan feast.

The cataract of Philadelphia registrants was impressive enough in itself, bringing crowds of a size not seen in decades. Most astonishing to veteran convention observers had to be the crowds of CHILDREN – you know, YOUNG PEOPLE! There they were by the dozens, then scores and hundreds – on the bourse floor, in meetings and at the new short-form version of the World Series of Numismatics.

Virtually all of these energetic youngsters were energized and propelled by the Statehood Quarter program. That is their point of entry, but we must all

pray that the self-evident attractions of the wider world of numismatics will entice them deeper. The fabulous smorgasbord offered at the Philadelphia ANA offered them a window overlooking the full panorama of numismatics that we NLG members know so well.

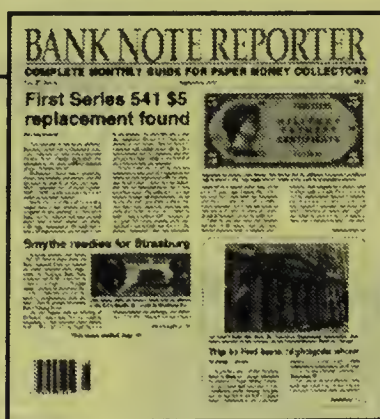
These are the young collectors we've pined for in the last 25 years, and they are HERE, NOW! Let's welcome them to our clubs, encourage and support them, act as mentors in every possible way. They are our future, the same future that had appeared to fade from sight in recent years. The Statehood Quarters are offering coin collecting a new lease on life. Let's not lose it.

#

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"Since Clem Bailey's time, each Clemy winner has had the prerogative of choosing the next year's recipient, working from a list of names submitted by members of the NLG Board of the hour. From the first, this has been recognized as a significant responsibility. Only by preserving the special character of the Clemy can its worth be assured and reinforced. Active lobbying for the Clemy, either for oneself or for another, has long been regarded as an exhibition of bad taste. When the NLG constitution and bylaws were rewritten in 1984, the experience and traditions of the Guild were codified and specific rules for the choosing of Clemy winners were finalized.

"As stated in our constitution, a Clemy candidate must possess three important qualifications: demonstrated writing ability, a sense of humor and dedication and service to the NLG. Writing ability and a record of publication must be shown to qualify for NLG membership in the first instance.

"As to humor, the NLG Bash has always offered an unmatched opportunity for the display of outrageous, not overly subtle humor, providing ample scope for this second Clemy requirement. So far, so good.

"The third qualification, which possibly has lost some of its familiarity in recent years, is dedication and service to the NLG. Recalling that I wrote the relevant section of the constitution and drawing on the experience of 25 years as an active NLG member, I cannot emphasize too strongly that the Clemy was never intended to be given to anyone simply because



Wendell Wolka receiving the 2000 Clemy Award from Tom DeLorey.

he or she was a great guy or gal.

"Dedication and service to the Guild are not hard to define. Service can consist of work with the NLG Board, as executive director or as Newsletter editor. Humor combines with service if one has served as Bash emcee, songwriter or skit performer, stand-up (or sit-down) comedian, satirical humorist or musician. Serving in the sometimes thankless role of writers' contest judge or Newsletter contributor also deserve mention. Stated another way, a record of non-involvement in the work of the NLG must be considered a significant and unarguable disqualification for Clemy recognition."

This year's Clemy winner is certainly overqualified by David's and the Guild's high expectations of writing, humor and service to the NLG, and I stand behind the recipient 100 percent. The winner and I have even lived in the same state, which if you are keeping score only eliminates half of this year's nominees. Fortunately, I have now settled down.

The recipient is, or has been, a librarian, a writer and a collector of really weird stuff. Fortunately, the really weird stuff is not Honduran, so I don't have to kill him for his collection. It does include amusement park memorabilia (I do believe that he has a genuine roller-coaster in his back yard), postcards pertaining to firehouses, and wire-service photographs of pre-World War II airline disasters. A real sick puppy here, folks!

In the mundane world, he also collects Indiana national bank notes, proofs of obsolete notes, French and French colonial notes and notes issued by the State Bank of Ohio. He has coauthored a book entitled "Indiana Obsolete Notes and Scrip," and is a loyal Purdue Boilermakers fan. I'm from Michigan, and anybody who lives in Columbus and is not an Ohio State Buckeye fan can't be all bad.

I give you this year's Clemy winner – our own emcee, Wendell Wolka!

2000 NLG Awards

Following is a complete list of winners in the 2000 Numismatic Literary Guild Writers' Competition. Congratulations to one and all!

CLASS I BOOKS

1. BOOK OF THE YEAR

The work having the greatest potential impact on numismatics: "Federal Half Dimes," by **Russell Logan** and **John W. McCloskey**

2. BEST SPECIALIZED BOOK

- (a) **United States Coins: "The Official Guide to U.S. Commemorative Coins,"** by **David L. Ganz**
- (b) **World Coins: "Coinage and History of the Roman Empire,"** by **David L. Vagi**
- (c) **U.S. Paper Money: "Standard Catalog of U S Paper Money, 18th Edition,"** by **Chester L. Krause and Robert F. Lemke,** edited by **Robert E. Wilhite**
- (d) **World Paper Money: "2000 Standard Catalog of World Paper Money,"** by **Colin R. Bruce II and Neil Shafer**
- (f) **Numismatic Investments: "Type Three Double Eagles,"** by **Douglas Winter and Michael Fuljenz**

EXTRAORDINARY MERIT:

"The Error Coin Encyclopedia," by **Arnold Margolis and Fred Weinberg**

"A History of Bermuda and Its Paper Money," by **Nelson Page Aspen**

CLASS II-A U.S. COMMERCIAL NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES

3. BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES

- (a) **Coins: "Y-Zero-K,"** **Mel Wacks,** *COINage*
- (b) **Tokens & Medals: "Millennial Coins and Medals,"** **David T. Alexander,** *COINage*
- (c) **Paper Money: "Paper, Plastic or Brass?,"** **Tom DeLorey,** *COINage*

4. BEST COLUMN

"My Two Cents' Worth," **Ed Reiter,** *COINage*

5. BEST ISSUE

Coins Magazine, May 1999; **Robert R. Van Ryzin,** Editor

CLASS II-B WORLD COMMERCIAL NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES

6. BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES

- (a) **Coins: TIE – "Modern European Coinage,"** **Jim Smythe,** *World Coin News* and "Byzantine Coins Present History of Christian Icons," **Christopher T. Connell,** *World Coin News*
- (b) **Tokens & Medals: "Many Tokens Hail From 'Banana Republic' Era,"** **Russell Rulau,** *World Coin News*
- (c) **Paper Money: "Recent Trip to Vietnam Proved Fruitful,"** **Howard A. Daniel III,** *World Coin News*

7. BEST COLUMN

"Coins of the Bible," **David Hendin,** *The Celator*

8. BEST ISSUE

The Celator, December 1999, **Kerry K. Wetterstrom,** Editor

CLASS III NON-PROFIT OR CLUB NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES NATIONAL CLUB PUBLICATIONS

9. BEST ARTICLE

"The Paper Money (and Coins) of Zanzibar," **Gene Hessler,** *International Bank Note Society Journal*

11. BEST ISSUE

Paper Money, January - February 2000, **Fred L. Reed III,** Editor

REGIONAL CLUB PUBLICATIONS

9. BEST ARTICLE

"The Anatomy of a Winning Exhibit," **David Crenshaw,** *GNA Journal*

11. BEST ISSUE

GNA Journal, April 2000, **David Crenshaw,** Editor

EXTRAORDINARY MERIT:

"Meeting and Remembering a Man Named Machin," by **Michael Sedgwick,** *Fleur de Coin Review* (British Royal Mint journal), August 1999

CLASS IV NUMISMATIC NEWSPAPERS

12. BEST SPOT NEWS STORY OR CONTINUING COVERAGE OF DEVELOPING STORY IN NUMISMATICS

"Dealers Buy Central America Gold," **Paul Gilkes,** *Coin World*

13. BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES

- (a) **Coins: "The Confederate Half Dollar,"** **William T. Gibbs,** *Coin World*

- (b) Tokens & Medals: "James Earle Fraser,"
Fred L. Reed III, *Coin World*
- (c) Paper Money: "Greed Spelled End for Mineral Point's Bank," David C. Kranz,
Bank Note Reporter

14. BEST COLUMN

"Facts About Fakes,"
F. Michael Fazzari,
Numismatic News

15. BEST ISSUE

Numismatic News, Aug. 10,
1999, David C. Harper, Editor

CLASS V NON-NUMISMATIC NEWSPAPERS

16. THE MAURICE M. GOULD MEMORIAL AWARD

No award

CLASS VI AUCTION CATALOG

17. BEST AUCTION CATALOG

- (a) Coins & Currency: Auctions by Bowers and Merena, "The Walter H. Childs Collection"

- (b) Books and Exonumia: Stack's, "The Americana Sale"

EXTRAORDINARY MERIT:
David W. Akers, "The John J. Pittman Collection, Part Three"

EXTRAORDINARY MERIT:
Sotheby's, "The Central America Sale"

CLASS VII COMMERCIAL PUBLICATIONS

18. LEE MARTIN FOUNDER'S AWARD for Best Investment Newsletter:

Maurice H. Rosen, *The Rosen Numismatic Advisory*

EXTRAORDINARY MERIT:
Michael R. Fuljenz, *Investor's Profit Advisory*

19. BEST DEALER-PUBLISHED MAGAZINE OR NEWSPAPER

Rare Coin Review,
Bowers and Merena Galleries

CLASS VIII ALL-AROUND PORTFOLIO

20. BEST ALL-AROUND PORTFOLIO:

James L. Halperin

CLASS IX THE NLG NEWSLETTER

21. BEST WRITER IN THE NLG NEWSLETTER:

Neil Shafer

CLASS X AUDIO-VISUAL

24. TELEVISION: Best Television Report on Numismatics: EXTRAORDINARY MERIT:

CNBC, "Money Talks,"
Michael R. Fuljenz, Guest

News 12 Long Island, "The 50-State Quarters," Feb. 12, 2000, Anthony Swiatek, Guest

Bloomberg Moneycast,
January 2000; Scott A. Travers, Guest

26. BEST WEB SITE ARTICLE Fred L. Reed III

27. BEST WEB SITE

"The Heritage Website,"
Heritage Numismatic
Auctions

28. BEST SOFTWARE

"CSNS 2000 Sale," Heritage
Numismatic Auctions

THE RIBBET
Arlie Slabaugh

THE CLEMY
Wendell Wolka



ROLL OF HONOR CLEMY AWARD WINNERS 1968 - 2000

1968	Clement F. Bailey
1969	Edward C. Rochette
1970	Lee Martin
1971	Margo Russell
1972	Virginia Culver
1973	Maurice M. Gould
1974	Eva B. Adams
1975	Ray Byrne
1976	Chester L. Krause
1977	Richard S. Yeoman
1978	Lee F. Hewitt
1979	Abe Kosoff
1980	Glenn Smedley
1981	Arlie Slabaugh
1982	Eric P. Newman
1983	Kenneth Bressett
1984	Donn Pearlman
1985	Walter Breen
1986	Ed Reiter
1987	David Alexander
1988	James L. Miller
1989	Q. David Bowers
1990	David L. Ganz
1991	Clifford Mishler
1992	R.W. Julian
1993	Russell Rulau
1994	Elvira Clain-Stefanelli
1995	Beth Deisher
1996	Col. Bill Murray
1997	Alan Herbert
1998	Burnett Anderson
1999	Thomas K. DeLorey
2000	Wendell Wolka

GUILD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Guild continues to grow – and our latest batch of new members includes the youngest ever. **Kelsey Ann Flynn** of Rancocas, N.J., was just 10 years old when the NLG Board of Directors approved her application.

Kelsey, who's 11 now, is the daughter of Kevin Flynn, an NLG member who has written numerous books and earned recognition for his work in our annual Writers' Competition. She's evidently following in her father's footsteps, for she earned her wings with the Guild by co-writing a book for junior hobbyists called "Coin Collecting for Kids." Kevin Flynn, naturally, was her NLG sponsor.

Here are other welcome new additions:

Robert S. Bartanowicz of Nashua, N.H., author of the monthly "Coin Tales" column in *Coins Magazine* and a regular contributor to the *Nashua Numismatist*, a club newsletter in his hometown. Sponsored by Robert F. Fritsch.

Peter P. Gaspar of St. Louis, Mo., a distinguished author who has written several books on numismatic subjects and articles for numerous periodicals in the field, including *The Numismatist*, *Coin World*, *Numismatic News*, the *British Numismatic Journal*, the *Numismatic Chronicle*, and the *Numismatic Circular*. His work has also appeared in *ANS Museum Notes*, the *Seaby Coin and Medal Bulletin* and *The Asylum*. He is a fellow of the American Numismatic Society, a corresponding member of the council of the British Numismatic Society

and a member of the American Numismatic Association, the Royal Numismatic Society, the Swiss Numismatic Society and the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. Sponsored by Eric P. Newman.

Ron Volpe of Brooklyn, N.Y., co-author of "Coin Collecting for Kids," the book for junior hobbyists with which Kelsey Ann Flynn made her numismatic writing debut. Likewise sponsored by Kevin Flynn.

#

NLG BLASTS OFF FOR CYBERSPACE

The NLG was born in 1968 – one year before man first set foot on the Moon. Now, as it nears its 33rd birthday, the Guild itself has established a presence in space – cyberspace, that is. Joining much of humanity, it has set up a site on the World Wide Web where members and other interested individuals can check on new developments at the click of a computer mouse.

The Web site, authorized by the NLG Board of Directors last August in Philadelphia, can be accessed by going to:
www.numismaticliteraryguild.org

Among other things, browsers at the new site will find a list of the winners in the 2000 NLG Writers' Competition (the same list published in this issue of the Newsletter), a roster of Clemy Award winners from 1968 to date, a report on recent activity by members and membership information for those who might be interested in joining.

The site was developed by Howard M. Berlin, a Guild member with special expertise on computer technology. Dr. Berlin, who resides in Delaware, worked as an electrical engineer for the U.S. Department of Defense for 13 years and was awarded three U.S. patents for his inventions. For the last two decades, he has been a professor of electrical engineering at the college level.

He has written more than two dozen books, including "The Coins and Banknotes of Palestine Under the British Mandate, 1927-1947," which was published recently by McFarland & Company. His books have dealt with a wide range of subjects, including not only numismatics but also electronics, U.S. Treasury securities and Charlie Chan movies. He has been collecting coins and bank notes of the Palestine Mandate for more than 20 years and has exhibited his collection widely, winning numerous best-of-show and first-place awards.

Berlin proposed the Web site at the NLG Board's annual meeting during last summer's ANA convention, and the plan won the directors' enthusiastic endorsement. He is now the Web master of the site.

"Howard has given the Guild a wonderful new tool," said Executive Director Ed Reiter. "He devoted many hours to setting up 'this Web site and continues to donate his valuable time and exceptional talent to keeping it timely and informative. This will give members a great new way to keep up with our programs, and also introduce us to potential new members who might not have known about us otherwise."

NLG Bash cont. from page 3

Shafer announced the Year 2000 Ribbet Award winner to be Arlie Slabaugh, an NLG charter member who received the Clemmy Award in 1981. Slabaugh's career in numismatics began decades ago with Lee Hewitt and *Numismatic Scrapbook* magazine. As a linotype operator, he was capable of such lightning speed that he could compose articles in his head and set the type for them as rapidly as his fingers moved.

His skill as an in-depth researcher and cataloger of medals and tokens combined with his distinctive writing style to make him a legend in the world of numismatic publishing. He served until retirement as archivist of The Franklin Mint, located near the Philadelphia convention site.

Tom DeLorey, recipient of the 1999 Clemmy Award, announced his choice for 2000's winner near the end of the Bash. Named for one of NLG's founders, the late Clement F. Bailey, the Clemmy is the highest accolade bestowed by the Guild and carries prestige throughout the hobby. DeLorey's choice was longtime Bash master of ceremonies and newly elected NLG board member Wendell Wolka. The full text of his Clemmy presentation appears in this issue.

The 2000 NLG Bash concluded at midnight, after record-breaking good humor, typically outrageous satire and stirring award presentations. From time to time, Bash-goers have suggested different approaches or acts for the event. There is only one sure way of bringing about change or improvement: Join in, take an

active part in the Bash – as singer, musician, satirist, stand-up comedian, shill or whatever!


This is YOUR Bash! We can have as much innovation and sparkle as NLG members and well-wishers provide. Give this some thought, join us next year in Atlanta and give it your best shot.

You'll be welcome!

#

In Memory of Helen Carmody-Lebo 1938 – 2001

A tribute to Helen
will appear in our
next newsletter.



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Attention Numismatic Writers.

Remember, Heritage is always happy to share photos, descriptions and other numismatic content with NLG members for worthy projects. Simply join our Web community at www.HeritageCoin.com, and you will have access to articles, research, prices realized archives, and much, much more. Then e-mail us whenever you wish to reprint anything (not necessary for brief, cited quotes). Permission is routinely and instantly granted to NLG members to use large portions of our content, with proper credit given.

Heritage is also planning a contest for NLG members to submit their articles for posting on www.HeritageCoin.com, the Internet's most popular numismatic website. First prize is \$5,000. Details to be announced soon.

Please e-mail your name, address and e-mail address to jim@heritagecoin.com with the words "NLG Writer" in the subject line so we can send you our press releases and keep you informed of the contest and all other newsworthy events at Heritage.



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PARODY ARRIVES FOR THE NOT-SO-GOLDEN DOLLAR

By ED REITER



"Golden dollar" has proven to be a contradiction in terms in more ways than one for the U.S. Mint's new Sacagawea \$1 coin. The coin, of course, doesn't contain any gold – it's made from a base-metal alloy of brass, manganese and nickel. Beyond that, its original golden color soon darkens, often in an unsightly fashion, when it circulates – presumably because of the manganese, a notoriously unstable metal which caused similar problems when used in the emergency-alloy wartime Jefferson nickels of 1942-45.

All this provided fodder for yours truly's annual parody at the 2000 NLG Bash in Philadelphia. I decided to pay tribute to this not-so-golden "new-ie" in my traditional song, and chose just the opposite – a golden oldie – as the vehicle for the parody. My choice goes all the way back to 1922 (though unlike some Lincoln cents of that year, its words and music are anything but plain – being, on the contrary, quite flamboyant).

When they colored you
oo-oo-oo-oo-oo-oo,
You were so brand new
oo-oo-oo-oo-oo-oo.

But then you started to
change your tone
From gold to plaid.
You'd think that somebody
would have known
That manganese was bad.

Now you're black and blue
oo-oo-oo-oo-oo-oo,
And you're in the "Sac"
with George Washington,
too.

Why can't the Mint
Restore your old tint?

When you were designed,
Were they color-blind?

The song I chose was "Indian Love Call," best known from its use in a movie some years later, where it was memorably performed by Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald. As I pointed out in my opening remarks at the Bash, this new performance was by an Eddy but decidedly not by Nelson.

By happy coincidence, the audience included Mint Director Jay Johnson, who thus got to hear this tribute to his agency's handiwork upclose and personal. He took it, I might add, in extremely good humor. (But then, this was not his baby; he inherited the coin from his predecessor. And, in any case, the baby is Sacagawea's.)

Having pun-ished you enough already, I offer herewith the lyrics to this melodious (or is it malodorous?) tribute. Given the average age of ANA members, I expect most of you to remember the melody!

Look for the 2001 NLG Writers' Competition rules in our next Newsletter.

**All entries must have been
published between May 1, 2000 and
April 30, 2001.**

NLG NEWSLETTER

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TO:

